

The Alexandria Gazette.

SATURDAY EVEN'G, JULY 19, 1862.

GENERAL NEWS.

Among the generals not confirmed by the Senate is said to be Gen. Marey, General McClellan's father-in-law, and chief of staff.

The Rockingham, Va., Register says:—"Our farmers are now very busy in securing their harvests of hay and wheat—more busy than usual, in consequence of the scarcity of hands and the difficulty of their procurement. The harvest is a very heavy one—much heavier and finer than usual."

The last four volumes of Victor Hugo's "Les Misérables" appeared on the 20th ult. Their issue was announced in most of the journals, and by what the English would call "stunning" placards all over Paris—white letters a foot long, on a black ground, occupying the centre of a rose colored sheet of mammoth size.—The booksellers' and print-shop windows are filled with photographs of the principal characters and scenes in the books.

The postmaster at Philadelphia writes to the Postoffice Department, saying that there is a great rush for stamps, and ordering a large supply. The department has in circulation an average amount of half a million dollars of stamps, but it can get off a million stamps a day, and this amount in dollars would be towards a hundred thousand.

In the several appropriation bills which passed Congress there are various items for improvements and work of local interest in Washington. Among them: For completing the west wing of the Treasury building, five hundred thousand dollars. For painting the outside of the old portion of the capitol, eight thousand dollars.

As postage stamps are soon to be currency and legal tenders, it is important that the public should know particularly about them. The one ct. stamp is blue and has the vignette of Franklin. The three ct. stamp (the one commonly used) is red or pink, with the portrait of Washington. The five ct. is chocolate color with the head of Jefferson. The ten ct. is green, with the portrait of Washington.—The twelve ct. is black, with the portrait of Washington. The twenty-four ct. is lilac, with the head of Washington. The thirty ct. yellow, with the vignette of Franklin. The ninety ct. is blue, with the portrait of Washington as appearing when a young general. The stamps now in use by the Postoffice Department are distinguished from the old ones (not now receivable) by the fact that the figures denoting the denominations are in the upper corners.

Emma French, a courtesan from Baltimore, who was arrested at Newbern, N. C., some time since, on a charge of shooting and wounding a soldier named Hurlbert, has been tried and sentenced to two months' imprisonment in the penitentiary in Washington, and to pay a fine of \$200, of which \$50 goes to the injured man, and the rest to the government fund.

A New York recruiting officer thus advertises:—"Grand excursion by steamboat and railroad.—This ticket entitles the bearer to a passage to Richmond, Va. Fare, clothes, and food gratis, and \$38 given for nothing. For further particulars, apply, &c."

The Senate failed to confirm a large number of nominations, which fell with the adjournment. Among them were those of Ward Burnett, G. A. Scroggs, Edwin H. Webster and Col. Carroll, to be Brigadier Generals; Benjamin F. Isherwood as Chief of Steam Engineering, and John Lenthal as Chief of Construction and Repair. Other for minor offices share a similar disappointment.

The probabilities are that within a week or ten days a general exchange of prisoners will be arranged with the Confederates, upon the principles of the cartel of 1813.

The final adjournment of Congress was marked by no events worthy of special note.—The Senate remained in executive session all the morning, performing legislative and executive work at the same time, without opening the doors. The result was that all the attraction centered in the House, though the attendance there of members and spectators was slim.

The Belfast (Me.) Journal says there is a greater demand for spinning wheels than at any time for the last twenty years. Farmers seem to be returning, as much as possible, to the old time economy, dispensing with superfluities and producing at home as many as possible of the necessities of life.

The dress worn on the occasion of the marriage of the Princess Alice with the Prince Louis of Hesse, was a mourning dress, the gentlemen in black evening coats, white waistcoats, grey trousers, and black neckcloths, and the ladies in grey or violet mourning dresses, and gray or white gloves. The bride wore a dress of white silk of a new material called Crystaline, with silk flounces of Honiton lace, and a border of orange flowers at the bottom of the skirt.

A Paris letter revives the old story that Louis Napoleon is believed to be affected at times mentally to such a degree as to become indifferent to the course of affairs, and during these moments they say the Empress controls him.

A letter dated Harrison's Bar, dated July 14 published in the N. Y. Tribune, says:—"The advance from here seven miles toward Richmond, which was reported and credited at Washington three days ago, is a myth. The rumor doubtless grew out of a successful reconnaissance of the Eighth Illinois Cavalry several miles in that direction. That regiment pushes a squadron nearly every day to within two miles of Turkey Bend without serious opposition. The pickets of the two armies seldom fire upon each other. Probably there have not been ten casualties within a week, owing to express or implied agreement between the parties. A cavalry Captain tells me the understanding is that "neither shall fire until the other treads on his toes," which is a far better state of things than existed in the Fair Oaks Swamps."

Senator Chandler was authorized to use in his speech the testimony taken before the Conduct of the War Committee, by a vote of that committee, at a regular meeting. Four members, being a majority of the whole number, were present, and unanimously granted him permission. Had the official correspondence asked for been furnished, there would have been no need of resorting to the records of the committee.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

The steamer City of Washington, from Liverpool on the 9th, by way of Queenstown on the 10th, brings advices four days later.

Lord Russell stated in Parliament that France had declined entering into a treaty against the slave trade.

A resolution prohibiting English interference in China had been rejected in the House of Commons.

There are rumors that France will retire from Mexico.

Gen. Prim has arrived in England.

The cotton manufacturers of Rouen and Lyle have sent a deputation to the Emperor Napoleon, to represent their difficulties.

The Italian ministry repudiates any interference in the affairs of Mexico.

The U. S. gunboat Tuscarora has arrived at Southampton.

It is rumored that Russia will join France in a mediation in American affairs.

The Paris correspondent of the London Herald believes that France entertains very serious intentions of interference to end the civil war in America.

The London Times thinks that any offer of mediation in America will be received with insult.

American stocks have a downward tendency. Liverpool, July 9th.—Cotton—Sales for two days 27,000 bales. Market firm at an advance of $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

Breadstuffs are quiet, with a decline of 6d on Flour and 1@2d on Wheat—red Southern 9s. 9d@11s. Corn closed dull.

[COMMUNICATED.]

The high price of vegetables in the Alexandria market, has been noticed—but not in terms of condemnation, of the extortion attempted in many instances, stronger than it deserves. Let any housekeeper compare the prices of tomatoes, snap beans, cabbages, &c., here, with what is charged in the Baltimore and Washington markets, and the difference will be appreciated. Surely these are not times to charge exorbitant rates. A. B.

The Northern papers republish the following extract from the Richmond Enquirer of the 14th:—"The Confederate army neither *digs* nor *drills* one half as much as the Federals, and yet the spade and the pick contributed as much to the defence of Richmond as the musket and the cannon. Our impatient people must see that Gen. Lee's elaborate earthworks enabled him to remove from the enemy's front that large portion of his army that fell upon his rear, and won the victories which relieved Richmond. We must again dig, dig, dig, or McClellan will dig into Richmond. The spade can only be conquered with the spade; the shovel will always defeat the musket."

A Washington despatch denies a rumor—that Gen. McClellan had resigned—which we never heard had an existence until the despatch was published.

The U. S. Marshal sold at auction yesterday, in New York, schooners Actor, Mary Clinton, Mars and Napoleon. A colored man, Edward Wright, was the purchaser of the Actor—price \$725. Napoleon brought \$8,576, the Mars \$800, and the Mary Clinton \$5,200.

In the Baltimore Cattle market, yesterday, of the number offered 100 were left over unsold, 150 head taken by the government Agent and 150 head driven to Washington City, the balance being purchased by city packers and butchers, at prices ranging from \$2 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ to \$4.50 per 100 lbs. for ordinary to prime Beeves; a decline on the lower grades of 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ cts. per 100 lbs. The market closed dull.